

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 14027 171021Z

13

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

SAM-01 /070 W

----- 041339

R 170905Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2332

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14027

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, JA, KN, KS

SUBJECT: JAPANESE VIEWS ON NORTH KOREA

REFS: A. TOKYO 13284; B. SEOUL 7360

1. PANMUNJOM INCIDENT ENGINEERED BY PYONGYANG TO PROVE POINT THAT PRESENCE OF AMERICAN TROOPS HEIGHTENS TENSION ON KOREAN PENINSULA. THIS WAS CONCLUSION DRAWN BY FONOFF NORTHEAST ASIA DIVDIR ENDO DURING ANALYTICAL POST MORTEM ON INCIDENT SEPTEMBER 16. DEATHS OF US OFFICERS APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN ACCIDENTAL, THE RESULT OF NORTH KOREAN LOSING CONTROL OF THEMSELVES. INCIDENT DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CONNECTED TO DOMESTIC POWER STRUGGLE IN PYONGYANG AS FAR AS ENDO COULD TELL. ROK EMBASSY OFFICERS WERE SPREADING THIS ASSESSMENT IN A NUMBER OF CAPITALS BASED ON DATA THEY RECEIVED FROM JAPANESE SOURCES, BUT FACTS DID NOT REALLY STAND UP TO CLOSE SCRUTINY, ENDO SAID.

2. MUCH HAD BEEN MADE, FOR EXAMPLE, OF FACT THAT NORTH KOREANS HAD INVITED A NUMBER OF JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TOKYO 14027 171021Z

STAYING IN PYONGYANG TO RETURN HOME. ACTUALLY,

INVITATIONS WERE SELECTIVE. JAPANESE HELPING IN KEY INDUSTRIES SUCH AS CEMENT PLANT CONSTRUCTION, (MITSUI) HAD NOT BEEN ASKED TO GO. WITHIN SEVERAL FIRMS, BUSINESSMEN ASKED TO LEAVE, BUT JAPANESE ENGINEERS WERE NOT AFFECTED. IN MEANTIME, MANY OF THOSE ASKED TO GO HOME HAVE BEEN REISSUED INVITATIONS TO RETURN. IMPLICATION IS THAT REQUESTS TO LEAVE DESIGNED TO REDUCE NON-ESSENTIAL FOREIGN POPULATION OF PYONGYANG AT TIME AUTHORITIES THOUGHT HOSTILITIES COULD BREAK OUT.

3. SAME ANALYSIS MIGHT ALSO APPLY TO CANCELLATION OF NORTH KOREANS OF CHILDREN'S DANCE TROUPE VISIT TO JAPAN SPONSORED BY YOMIURI NEWSPAPER, AND WITHDRAWAL OF SEVERAL APPLICATIONS BY NORTH KOREANS RESIDENTS OF JAPAN TO VISIT PYONGYANG FOR NATIONAL DAY SEPTEMBER 9.

4. KIM IL-SUNG'S ABSENCE FROM AUG 25-SEPT 10 HAD SPARKED CONSIDERABLE COMMENT, BUT ENDO WAS HARD PUT TO DEVELOP CLEAR INTERPRETATION. KIM'S FAILURE TO APPEAR AT NATIONAL DAY CEREMONIES NOT ALL THAT PECULIAR PLACED AGAINST PATTERN OF HIS PAST APPEARANCES AT THESE EVENTS. WHILE HE WOULD NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF POWER STRUGGLE NOW, ENDO FELT THAT SERIOUS CONFLICT OVER SUCCESSION WOULD MORE LIKELY OCCUR AFTER KIM'S DEPARTURE FROM POLITICAL SCENE.

5. COMMENT: WHATEVER THE MERITS OF THE CURRENT ANALYSIS, THE JAPANESE ARE INDEED SPENDING MORE TIME ON NORTH KOREAN AFFAIRS. ENDO PROVIDED US WITH A COPY OF HIS OWN IN-HOUSE PAPER ON NORTH KOREA, PRESENT AND FUTURE, WHICH WE PLAN TO SEND ALONG WHEN TRANSLATED. WE ARE ALSO SETTING UP CHANNELS WITH FOREIGN OFFICE TO TAP MORE SYSTEMATICALLY THEIR THINKING ON NORTH KOREAN AFFAIRS.
HODGSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO14027
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760352-0677
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760946/aaaabnia.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TOKYO 13284, 76 SEOUL 7360
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE VIEWS ON NORTH KOREA
TAGS: PINT, JA, KN, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006